

The Punta Gorda Herald

A. F. JORDAN, Editor
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FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 1902

This is Florida day at the Charleston exposition.

What's the matter with Tom Johnson, of Ohio, as a presidential possibility?

The writer of blood-curdling tales of the Everglades is employed on the Klamath Gazette.

The Seaboard Airline threatens to skip Palmetto and build at once to Boca Grande.

The Bartow Democrat alleges that it never sought a loan from the local bank. Who said that it did? Editors of Florida papers ought to be able to understand simple English.

Palatka Times-Herald: Judge Young has many friends in this county, but his following would not be of sufficient force to prevent old Putnam from being in the Hoeker column when the final vote is counted.

Fifteen business men of Palmetto have bought the News of that place from Frank Walpole, now editor of the Tampa Herald, and are making an excellent paper of it. Arthur T. Cornwell, Jr., is editor and his work shows that he understands his business.

Volusia Record: Judge W. A. Hoeker, for many years a circuit court judge, now a candidate for supreme court justice, is one of the purest and cleanest men in Florida, both as a judge and a citizen, and he is the kind of a man the people will vote for, to place him in the most sacred and prominent office in Florida.

Palatka Times-Herald: It is no disparagement to Col. Sparkman to say that Robert McNamee, of St. Petersburg, would make an ideal national representative, clear-headed, able and conscientious. His ability is unquestioned, and the first would be ably represented were he sent to Washington.

The Tampa Tribune's proclamation edition, issued last Sunday, was a superb evidence of the enterprise and ability of the gentlemen who are conducting that splendid newspaper. It would require a column or more of space to recapitulate its many meritorious features, but it is enough to say that it was such a paper as should make all Tampa proud.

The people of Key West who feel that they have not been given a fair share of the river and harbor appropriations, and the people of Lake county who wish the Ocklawaha river improved, would like to see the Honorable Robert McNamee, of St. Petersburg, run for Congress. There may be others, especially among the political banditti of Tampa. But Mr. McNamee still wears that famous overcoat wrapped around his designs.

The DeSoto News alludes disparagingly to Gen. Gilchrist's candidacy for the legislature. It was quite an oversight on the general's part not to buy stock in the News and thereby become a member of the band who are accredited with the design of getting up a corner on the county offices as well as the county printing. However, all the people of DeSoto have not yet become stockholders in the News.

That brilliant daily, the Tampa Herald of last Friday, presents this highly appreciated bouquet: "Col. A. F. Jordan, editor of the new and bright PUNTA GORDA HERALD, spent a few hours in the city today. Editor Jordan is one of the strongest editorial and local writers in the State, and the good people of Punta Gorda are to be congratulated upon having such a brainy man at the head of their local paper."

The Wauchula Advocate seems to be "agin" Judge Wall. If it has any idea of being called upon to perpetrate a libel upon any aspiring politician during the coming campaign, it would be good policy for it to keep on the good side of Judge Wall, as the Tampa Tribune does. All wise newspapers should respect the circuit judge and the sheriff. Seriously, however, Judge Wall is but human; he has doubtless made mistakes, as the best of men do, but THE HERALD has the highest respect for his integrity and his recognized ability. And after due investigation THE HERALD is convinced that the injurious rumors in this county touching an infirmity which he threw off some years ago, are without just foundation.

THE REASON FOR THE RATES.

A polite and able representative of the Southern Express Company whom THE HERALD met in Tampa last Friday, verbally explains the recent advance in the rates on pineapples; and it is nothing but just that a fair newspaper should give this side of the case.

He says that the rate itself has not been actually advanced, but that the estimated weight of the crates has been advanced from fifty to eighty pounds. The former estimate, he says, was really in favor of the shipper, but the size of the crate continued to grow until there was much complaint on the part of the railroad company that the express company was not paying according to the contract between the two, its just proportion as measured by the weight of the stuff hauled by the railroad. That is, the express people were paying the railroad for fifty pounds when the latter was entitled to pay for nearly twice that much.

Accordingly, a revision of the estimated weight was made by actually weighing the crates, when it was found that they had nearly doubled in weight. The increase in the rate followed.

Another thing was pointed out by the official, not by way of complaint nor as an evidence that the express company was moved by any design to punish the shippers, but as going to show that the latter were in a measure responsible for whatever unsatisfactory prices were obtained in certain markets. This he attributed to the organization of the pineapple association having for its object the securing of car-load rates by freight from Jacksonville and the placing of the consolidated business in the hands of a manager, who, though faithful, honest, energetic and enterprising, did not have the requisite experience for putting the fruit into the proper hands at the right time.

The two results were that some, if not much of the fruit took a long time to get to market and reached there in bad condition, and, second, much of the trade having superior facilities for handling and placing really fancy fruit was cut off and the business given to those who did not have a fancy trade to supply. Touching this fancy trade, he gave instances of houses which had standing orders from tony hotels and restaurants, which houses were cut off by the manager of the association.

Now, as long as the growers are getting fancy prices, the official argued, there is no complaint of the express rates; but when prices become very low, there is complaint. His conclusion was that the growers, through their association methods being in a measure responsible for unsatisfactory returns, ought not to complain too severely of the express company, especially as the growers had caused the supposed increase in rates by steadily increasing the size and weight of their packages.

But there was one question which our official friend did not answer clearly and upon which we should like for some representative of the company to furnish a little light, and that is, cannot the express company make a fair profit taking pineapples from Punta Gorda to Chicago at \$1.50 per crate? A candid answer to this question would be worth a whole volume of argument.

Express officials and pineapple growers alike are welcome to use these columns, if they wish, to continue this discussion, for both parties are interested in arriving at a satisfactory understanding.

Amongst the names of municipal nominees made last week by one of Tampa's political organizations, that of Charles M. Knott appears as a candidate for assessor and collector. With no design of interfering, it is but justice to an old, true and tried friend to say that Mr. Knott would fill the office with splendid efficiency. He served Sumter county as tax assessor, later as circuit clerk and subsequently he was chairman of the county commissioners of Lake county. He discharged the duties of all these positions with admirable correctness and fidelity, leaving not even the semblance of a stain upon his official record, but making a brilliant reputation for himself. If the Tampa people elect him assessor and tax collector, they will never regret it.

They have a political concern or organization in Tampa called the P. P. P. The Tribune says these initials stand for purity, progress and publicity. The Union Label explains that they mean Peter's political push—referring to Col. Peter O. Knight's methods. The Herald writes the initials "ppp" and speaks irreverently of the organization as the three P's, evidently wishing the people to believe that it is prickly ash, poke root and potassium. We haven't seen the Tampa Times, but suppose it will say that the initials stand for poles, perils, plunder, or petty political piracies, or phrisky, phleeting phrauds. Verily, there's lots of politics, piety, and pleasant people in Pthampa.

The following paragraph from the Avon Park Items in the Wauchula Advocate should convey a hint to the enterprising people of Punta Gorda: "The Board of Trade met last Saturday and adopted and ordered printed a descriptive folder of this DeSoto county lake region to be sent out in answer to many enquiries concerning this vicinity."

Henry Wilson, the negro who murdered Lee Graham in Sumterville February 13, was captured this week and lodged in Tampa jail. He may be lynched.

MOONLIGHT ON THE SEA.

The Boca Grande Moonlight Excursion Down to The Gulf.

MIRTH AND MUSIC ON THE DEEP BLUE SEA
A Royal Good Time—Everybody Delighted With The Outing.

Commodore Booth's excursion on the splendid steamer Plant to Boca Grande, Tuesday night, proved a successful affair from every point of view.

There were clouds and indications of rain at nightfall, but the moon did shine as promised and the crowd that made the voyage was just large enough to fill the ship comfortably without causing any jostling or confusion.

The Punta Gorda brass band discoursed their finest music, which was supplemented by the marine band under the leadership of Ensign Herman Stewart. The latter was armed and equipped with guitars, mandolins and harmonicas and occupied the after part of the ship, while the brass band held forth on the forward promenade deck and in the saloon. Both did splendidly.

Miss Maud Burr, the accomplished vocalist, is entitled to special mention for favoring the delighted company with several choice selections to the accompaniment of the guitar.

The Plant and her officers were down to the colored stokers were active in contributing to the pleasure of the excursionists, and Commodore Booth and his lieutenants saw that everybody had a good time with plenty of cake, coffee, ice cream and the like.

The party had a look in passing at Cape Hays lighthouse mounted on steel stilts in the midst of the sea and they spent a pleasant hour gathering pretty shells on the beautiful strand of Boca Grande and watching the light flashing alternately red and white from the revolving apparatus in the tower of the lighthouse just above them.

The beach was literally strewn with shells of all kinds and some choice specimens were secured, even though gathered by moonlight.

Not a single incident occurred to mar the perfect enjoyment of the entire occasion.

The excursionists got back home a little after 2 o'clock Wednesday morning and are clamoring for another excursion just as soon as Commodore Booth can possibly secure another full moon for it.

HICKMAN BOOMING.

Judge J. W. Hagan was in from Shell creek neighborhood, Tuesday, and reported many improvements being made there. They have a new post office called Hickman, nine miles from Cleveland with a daily mail; a brand new saw mill direct from the factory; excellent public roads with good new bridges over all the streams, and the turnpike farm and still of Hickman, Groer & Co., employing forty or more men. This firm has recently bought a steam boat for towing lighters and is removing obstructions from the creeks, a piece of enterprise that will open up 25 miles of streams to navigation. They are also preparing to set out orange groves for which the soil is well adapted.

ANOTHER NOTED CITIZEN DEAD.
After a long, wasting illness, Hon. Owen H. Dishong, one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of this county, died Wednesday morning at his home at Owens, age about 70 years. He was buried yesterday, Masonic honors being paid to his memory.

He leaves a wife and five or six grown children, besides very many friends throughout this and Manatee counties to mourn his loss. His widow is a sister of Mr. J. A. Newsome of this city.

Mr. Dishong was raised in this section of Florida and spent many of his early years in Manatee and Hillsborough counties. The creation of DeSoto county placed his citizenship here and he was subsequently elected sheriff and served several terms until declining health caused his voluntary retirement. He proved an excellent official; and it was while serving as sheriff about six years ago, that the great newspapers of New York, to which city he had carried a prisoner, suddenly made him famous by heralding his name all over the world as one of the most unique characters of the South. He took this unexpected renown with characteristic modesty.

By correct business methods, he acquired a competency, chiefly orange grove property, and leaves his family comfortably provided for. These have the sincere sympathy of Mr. Dishong's many friends all over this region.

The news of his death will be received everywhere with genuine sorrow, for he was universally recognized as an upright man, a loyal friend, an excellent citizen.

THEIR FATHER DIED

Friday last, Mr. C. L. Fries and Mrs. Joshua Mizell received by wire the sad news of the death of their father, Mr. Albert Fries, which occurred on the night of the 20th inst. at his home in St. Nicholas, a suburb of Jacksonville. The two left by the first train to be present at the funeral, which took place at 10 o'clock Sunday morning.

Years ago the deceased was a noted journalist in Germany, where he indulged in such bold criticisms of the government that he was forced to seek refuge in the United States. He came to New York where he lived and worked in his profession for some years, subsequently removing to St. Nicholas, where he ended his days.

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We are, respectfully, yours for business,

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-A. ROE-

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